



2013 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

A bright and sunny day was felt both inside and out of the Gilbert Lodge at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held April 16, 2013. Good weather held out and over 100 volunteers were greeted by Spring time flowers, decorations and even cupcakes.

Herb Lemcool, Chairman, County Board of Commissioners welcomed volunteers and thanked them for their efforts on behalf of Grand Traverse County. Our new Probate & Family Court Judge, Honorable Melanie D. Stanton, greeted volunteers at the door and later shared her vision for the court and her interest in making our court more user friendly through literacy. Judge Stanton thanked volunteers for their contributions to our court. Amanda Steele, Senior Attorney, joined Judge Stanton in recognizing the dedication volunteers in Probate & Family Court have shown. Dick Thompson, President of the Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council, spoke about the importance of Literacy in our community and the longstanding partnership that exists between the Literacy Council and our Court. Twenty eight volunteers present, who have been with our court for 5 or more years, were recognized and received flowers. Their names are listed below:



Caron Alpers	Nancy Ferrar	Elizabeth Leden	Sam Sarns	Jim Valko
Wanda Anstine	Nancy Fraser	Elliott Morrison	Sue Schmidt	Karri Walter
Ruth Bay	Peg Gove	Florence Morrison	Laura Shumate	Pat Wazny
Kathy Blunck	Karen Grant	Etta Rajkovich	Sue Soderberg	Al Wilkins
Jim Doman	Don Hutchinson	Beth Rideout	Donna Thoma	Barb Wilkins
		Dolores Rode	Ed Thoma	

The evening closed with a wonderful song selection from the Traverse City West Senior High-Westmen-, directed by Mr. Wilson Nichols. We had great food, fun and fellowship, and we all went home singing, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight".

See Pg. 4 for more dinner highlights.



Happy Birthday

May

Sharon Studinger
Libby Robold
Marge Brehmer
Nancy Gagnon
Caroll Weeks
Karrilee Walter
Christine Pion
James Hartley

June

Barbara Winburne
Jean Howell
Nancy MacDonald
Barbara Woodruff
Vickie Maurer
Gaye Matta
James Maitland
Janice Meyer
Carol Wright
Cynthia Johnson
Chonda Baggerly
Susan Schweikart
Catherine Simons
Siri Salonen
Heather Flannery
Amy Richards
Faye Youker
Marilyn Jensen

New Vision Academy ~ Summer 2013



We would like to welcome our two newest interns whom will be coordinating New Vision Academy this summer. We are also in need of volunteers who have a special talent or skill that they would like to share with our youth during one of our sessions. Please contact the office if this is something you can help us with.

Hilary Hoeflin– Hilary is a 2009 graduate of Kingsley High School and currently attends Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI. She will graduate in the fall with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sociology with a concentration in Social and Criminal Justice, and a minor in Business Administration. Hilary plans to use her skills and education to become a Michigan State Trooper and attend the Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing after graduation.

Faye Youker– Faye married her high school sweetheart and has two wonderful little girls, who inspire her everyday. She is currently in the social work program at NMC, and hopes to continue her education through Ferris State and then on to Grand Valley. In her future, she would like a career working with children of any age.

Thoughts and Prayers Remembering Dick Gove

We are saddened by the passing of our friend Dick Gove. Dick was a busy guy, active in SCORE and other community groups, but he always had time to help us as an emergency guardian, and served as a volunteer conservator, annual accounting advisor and Citizen Panel member. He always wore a smile and greeted everyone with cheerful enthusiasm. Dick, along with his wife Peg, had volunteered with our Court since 1994. He will be greatly missed.



Residents can now drop-off expired, unused and unwanted prescription or over-the-counter drugs including narcotics and other controlled substances at the Grand Traverse Sheriff's and Traverse City Police headquarters located on Woodmere Avenue.

Traverse Health Clinic

Traverse Health Clinic has been a provider of free and now low-cost health services for the last 35 years. The clinic now provides low-cost on-site primary care for patients of all ages, from children to seniors. No one will be turned away for their inability to pay. For more information, visit:

www.traversehealthclinic.org



May and June Meetings

May meeting is the 7th at 4:00 p.m. and June meeting is the 4th also at 4:00 p.m., reminder that there are no meetings in the months of July and August, but we will be fishing and having our back to school picnic, details to follow.

Note: TCAPS official end-date for school is Tuesday, June 11th, 1/2 day dismissal.

Learning Partners Swim and Water Safety Program

We have 17 students in the pool at the Civic Center every week through mid-May, learning basic swimming and water safety skills. Learning life skills to be safe in and around our many lakes and rivers is a big part of the program. Of course, having fun and splashing are a big part, too!

End of School Plans

We will soon be sending our annual Learning Partner Survey to each teacher that has a Learning Partner Student in his/her class. We'll ask about the student's progress, and our involvement as Learning Partners. We will share the results with you as we receive them.



May Meeting

On Tuesday, **May 21st at 4:00 p.m.**, Shelley Burnes of Addiction Treatment Services will discuss the signs and symptoms of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She will also present Chapter 5 of the recent CASA training on 'Understanding Families'. ****Attention New CASA volunteers. This meeting is a make up for class cancelled in March.**

June Meeting

At our **June 18th**, monthly meeting, Cynthia Conlon, Court Referee, will be our guest. She will discuss her role as referee, court process, review hearings and what she finds helpful in a CASA court report. Janet Kronk, Family Services Case Manager, will join her to tell us about her role in these cases, scheduling hearings, and the state guidelines that she must follow.

Reminder

CASA Swearing-In ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, **May 7th**. Please be in the building no later than 5:15 p.m.

Those who attended the appreciation dinner may have noticed all of the pinwheels we used throughout our décor.

"The pinwheel is the nationally recognized symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention. It is also a symbol that expresses the belief that every child has the right to grow and flourish to his/her full potential within a nurturing environment."





VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

APRIL 16, 2013

GILBERT LODGE, TWIN LAKES PARK

2013 marks the 22nd year that we have held our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Gilbert Lodge. Many people who attended the dinner have said that it was a wonderful evening that they enjoyed very much. Special thanks and appreciation are extended to those who made this event possible:

Arrangements for this event by:

Linda Fawcett
Sue Adkins
Lindsey Jordan

Gift Cards/Discount Card:

Tom's Food Markets, Inc.
Meijer
Family Fare
Sam's Club
Gordon Food Service

Catering:

Dan Babiarz, from Canteen

Facilities:

Jim & Barb Mattson
Gilbert Lodge, Twin Lakes Park

Entertainment:

Traverse City West Senior High, Westmen
Wilson Nichols, Director

Cupcake Crew:

Laura Shumate, Diana Zapalski, Kathy Nixon, Lindsey Jordan, Sue Adkins, Linda Fawcett





GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Spring is here (I think)! GTALC continues to serve adult readers and has new students assessed and matched with tutors on an ongoing basis.

Now that the tax season has passed, our colleagues at Plante Moran will be sitting down with our board to map out an awareness campaign directed at agencies, and businesses that have among their client base or employees candidates for literacy support. At this writing it is not clear whether or not the event(s) will commence later this Spring or early this coming Fall.

Our next tutor training will be offered this fall; check with the literacy office (gtalc22@gmail.com or 231-922-4574).

Speaking of communication GTALC is working out a contractual relationship with LIAA of Traverse City to develop a new web site.

Another one of our partnerships, this time with NWMCOG and Michigan Works!, will enable GTALC to serve one of our learners through distance learning. We hope this experiment will provide still another method of reaching adults.

Lastly, we have concluded our 5th Annual Book Sale. This effort not only produces revenues which support our work, but makes reading materials available to readers for a fraction of their original cost.

Over the last 5 years, GTALC has raised over \$10,000.

None of this would have happened without the work of one person, Alinka Lipchinsky. Alinka is a long time volunteer and our resident 'techie' and it is through her leadership that we secure a space from the Grand Traverse Mall, volunteer support from Kohl's employees, a schedule for participants and the actual setting up of the sale.

This year we had 5 Kohl's employees; Jamie R., Jan V., Leianne B., Marianne C., and Maryann F. as well as, Heather, Jen, Tina, Sara and Sarah who contributed to the event. A cash donation from Kohl's was also received along with generous donations from many of their employees. Through Alinka's leadership, a good portion of the GTALC Board and volunteer corps participate in the sale (set up, actual sale, and tear down). Leftover books are donated to agencies that will make good use of them.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson, President GTALC

**Come to the B-B-Q!
Sunday, May 19th 2013**



**11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Northwestern Michigan
College**



**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRANVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

PRE-SORT STD.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

PERMIT NO. 229

Return Service Requested



***All meeting are held at the Volunteer Services office
unless otherwise mentioned.**

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, May 7th

Tuesday, June 4th



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, May 21st

Tuesday, June 18th



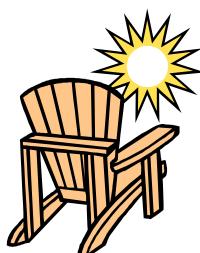
Literacy Council

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm

Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, May 22nd

Wednesday, June 19th



Our office will be closed on:

Monday, May 27th (Memorial Day)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Guardian Gathering

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

5:15 to 7:30 pm

Hall of Justice, Multi-Purpose Room

Informal gathering to meet other volunteer guardians. Bring questions, and share information. Shar Fay, Probate Register, will be present to help answer questions. Pizza and salad will be served. Gathering starts at 5:30pm, but everyone must be through security by 5:15 pm.